

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-48 and add new claims 49-53.

49. (New) A mixing apparatus, comprising:

a cartridge having a first end and a second end and forming an interior cavity, the cartridge having an aperture;

a handle extending through the aperture, the handle having a first end and a second end and defining a hollow cavity;

a mixing blade removably coupled to the first end of the removable handle; and,

a quick-release connector coupled to the handle and being moveable between a locked position and an unlocked position, the mixing blade being removable from the handle when the quick-release connector is in the unlocked position and being locked to the handle when the quick-release connector is in the locked position.

50. (New) A mixing apparatus, as set forth in claim 49, the mixing blade having a bore and at least one flange extending from the bore.

51. (New) A mixing apparatus, as set forth in claim 50, the first end of the handle including at least one flange recess for receiving the at least one flange.

52. (New) A mixing apparatus, as set forth in claim 51, the quick-release connected having a shaft disposed within the hollow cavity of the handle and a release button engaged to the shaft, the release button being moveable between the locked position and the

unlocked position, the shaft being rotated relative to the handle in response to movement of the release button between the locked position and the unlocked position.

53. (New) A mixing apparatus, as set forth in claim 52, the shaft having a first end and a second end, the first end of the shaft having at least one projection, the at least one projection being offset from the flange recess when the release button is in the unlocked position, thereby allowing the at least one flange to be inserted into the flange recess.

54. (New) A mixing apparatus, as set forth in claim 53, rotation of the release button and shaft towards the locked button causing the at least one projection to engage the at least one flange thereby forcing the at least one flange into the at least one flange recess.

55. (New) A mixing apparatus, comprising:

- a cartridge having a first end and a second end and forming an interior cavity, the cartridge having an aperture;
- a handle extending through the aperture, the handle having a first end and a second end and defining a hollow cavity;
- a mixing blade having a bore and at least one flange extending from the bore, the first end of the handle including at least one flange recess for receiving the at least one flange;
- a shaft having a first end and a second end and being disposed within the hollow cavity of the handle, the first end of the shaft having at least one projection;

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a release button engaged to the shaft, the release button being moveable between the locked position and the unlocked position, the shaft being rotated relative to the handle in response to movement of the release button between the locked position and the unlocked position, the at least one projection being offset from the flange recess when the release button is in the unlocked position, thereby allowing the at least one flange to be inserted into the flange recess, rotation of the release button and shaft towards the locked button causing the at least one projection to engage the at least one flange thereby forcing the at least one flange into the at least one flange recess.